

Democrat Party. They expect this Congress to see that the law is enforced, that we respect the separation of powers, and that laws are enacted by the people's elected representatives.

Change the rules, Mr. Leader, as we did in Texas, and make sure that no minority can block the will of the people. Make sure that our laws are enforced, that the border is secure, and that no one person can enact laws with the stroke of a pen. Laws are enacted here in the people's House in the Congress of the United States. The people of America voted overwhelmingly to reject the policies of Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Congress to embody the will of the American people, enforce the law, and stop the policies of Barack Obama that the people just decisively rejected. Let's follow the lead of Texas. Change the rules in the Senate, Mr. Leader.

By the way, make the Democrat Senators stand up and filibuster. Let's have a real filibuster. Make them stand up there for 18, 24, 34, 48 hours. Make them stand up there as long as it takes. If they are going to have a filibuster, do it as we do in Texas. Enforce the law, follow the will of the American people, and do what we were elected to do—to preserve this great American Republic handed down to us, this precious inheritance handed down to us by the Founding Fathers, and let's honor the hope of Benjamin Franklin that we would preserve this great American Republic.

#### DHS SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, in my State of Washington, we are very familiar with the vital role the Department of Homeland Security plays. Nearly 1 year ago, in a matter of seconds, 1 square mile of land slid into the Stillaguamish River near Oso, Washington.

That landslide was a heartbreaking disaster that was unbelievably devastating in the damage and the tragic loss of life that it caused. Forty-three people died in the blink of an eye. But FEMA, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, was immediately on the scene to coordinate search-and-rescue operations.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to do everything possible to ensure that resources are available to respond to disasters because landslides have no season, earthquakes have no season, and terrorist attacks have no season. By failing to fund the Department of Homeland Security, the Congress risks the lives of Americans, and that is simply unacceptable.

Now, some have said that most employees will be deemed essential, meaning they will be asked to do their already high pressure jobs of protecting our communities without pay. That

will be the case for more than 6,000 workers in my State. But FEMA Administrator Fugate said a lapse in funding would delay urgent disaster relief services because he would have to call staff back to work while the agency responds to an emergency.

Not only that, emergency responders who have requested Department of Homeland Security grants would be left without much-needed assistance. The Whatcom County Fire District 18, a mostly volunteer force that serves part of my district, applied for a \$24,000 firefighters grant to replace vital equipment. This is equipment that protects the lives of these volunteers who are saving the lives of others. But if Congress fails to fund the Department of Homeland Security, those grants are at risk.

If House leadership would simply bring a clean DHS funding bill to the floor, we have the votes to pass it today. But instead, that legislation is being held hostage because some disagree with the President's executive actions.

Mr. Speaker, I helped introduce H.R. 15, a comprehensive immigration reform bill during the last Congress. But we never got a vote. If leadership agrees that this is such an important issue, so important that it is worth defunding an essential federal agency, then Congress should be working right now on comprehensive immigration reform and consider legislation immediately—but after we finish our job of funding the Department of Homeland Security. We need to stop playing politics and fund the Department of Homeland Security now.

#### DHS SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, yet again, in support of a clean Homeland Security funding bill.

First, Mr. Speaker, however, I want to thank my colleague, PATRICK MCHENRY, for the tribute he gave a few moments ago to his predecessor in the 10th Congressional District of North Carolina, Cass Ballenger, who passed away last week. Cass Ballenger was a treasured colleague of mine. He and I came to the House together in the class of 1986. We worked together on a number of matters, including teacher recruitment and disaster relief. Cass used his time here and the work of his foundation to reach out to some of the neediest people in the hemisphere, in Latin America, in addressing their health care needs.

He came here after a successful business career. He was a man of great goodwill, good humor. He was someone who was a great favorite on both sides of the aisle. So I am happy to join PATRICK MCHENRY and other colleagues in remembering Cass Ballenger fondly

and paying tribute to his years of good citizenship and service.

Now, at this moment, Mr. Speaker, we are 38 hours away from a Department of Homeland Security shutdown which will undermine many of the agency's critical missions and force its essential employees to go without pay until the politics of all this are worked out.

Front-line personnel at Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service, the Transportation Security Administration, and other critical agencies are going to be left wondering how to pay their mortgages and how to feed their families instead of focusing on their critical missions.

In North Carolina alone, Mr. Speaker, over 4,000 Homeland Security employees are going to be furloughed or go without pay.

House Republicans forced this unnecessary stalemate by including poison pill riders in the bill that our Homeland Security Subcommittee negotiated late last year. It was a bipartisan, bicameral negotiated bill. It is ready to be passed right this minute. It should have been passed in December along with the rest of the appropriations bills. Instead, Republicans held back Homeland Security, and they added riders designed to poke the President in the eye and to impose radical anti-immigration policies on our country.

Now, thankfully, Senate Republican leaders understand the potential consequences of a shutdown. They have resisted this Tea Party bait, and they have decided to take up a clean Homeland Security funding bill. So the Senate must quickly pass that bill, and Speaker BOEHNER must let us vote on that bill.

Mr. Speaker, the American people didn't send us to Washington to shut down critical functions of the United States Government on which all of our citizens depend. Pass a clean Homeland Security funding bill.

#### DHS SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the House to fund the Department of Homeland Security and avoid an unnecessary shutdown. Instead of having a real debate about fixing a broken immigration system, Congress is putting at risk government operations that serve the people we represent and is playing politics with the livelihoods of our Federal workers.

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Threatening to shut down a Federal agency because you disagree with the President's actions is an irresponsible approach. We have got to move away from this kind of dysfunctional government and get back to legislating.